

Press Release

9th May 2011



Reg Charity Number 1134588



Rotary Clubs of Sussex
Helping Hospices

SUSSEX ROTARIANS ASK "HOW FAR ARE YOU PREPARED TO GO?"

Sussex Rotarians are throwing down the gauntlet in a bid to attract 500 people to rise to the challenge and sign up to take part in this year's Hike4Hospices sponsored walk.

The challenge, which takes place on **SATURDAY 20TH AND SUNDAY 21ST AUGUST**, will see participants stepping it out between Lewes and Goodwood along the beautiful South Downs Way. And the good news is that although many will choose to walk the entire 43 mile route over two days others can opt to walk just five miles on either day.

Last year 300 walkers took part in the event raising a staggering £42,000 an equal slice of which went towards patient care at St Barnabas House, The Martlets, St Wilfrid's and St Peter and St James Hospices. However this year Sussex Rotarians are hoping to attract 500 walkers, encourage participants to set their own challenge and raise even more money for the four Hospices.

Between them, the four hospices provide specialist palliative care to people suffering from cancer, Motor Neurone Disease and other terminal illnesses right across Sussex. Patients are never charged for their care. However the total costs of providing this care is £13.5 million per year and only a small portion of these costs are funded by the government leaving each Hospice with a huge challenge to face - to raise between 70 - 80% of the costs themselves.

Colin Crookes, Chairman of the Hike4Hospices Management Committee says, "Hike 4 Hospices is a unique event not just because it supports four hospices in Sussex but because it provides the opportunity for anyone to take part and meet their own personal challenge.

"Depending on your ability anything from 5 miles to the full 43 miles over 2 days is possible and it is this personal challenge that forms the basis of the fundraising. Be one of the 500 walkers this year and do something that makes you feel proud."

Colin Burgess, Chief Executive of St Peter & St James Hospice says, "The support and enthusiasm of Hike4Hospices in organising this annual fundraising event is a huge encouragement to the staff, volunteers, patients and families of St Peter & St James Hospice: on behalf of everyone at the hospice I would like to express our sincere gratitude to them all.

I hope that many more people will take up the challenge this year, in the knowledge that their efforts and sponsorship will provide vital support to the hospices whilst giving them the opportunity to enjoy the stunning scenery of the South Downs."

Online registration is now open, so put your best foot forward and help make a difference and Be One of the 500. To download a registration form click onto www.hike4hospices.com or call 01903 743261 for more information.

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For further information: Gill Cronin on 01444 471598

Notes to Editors: About St Peter & St James Hospice & Continuing Care Centre

Our mission as a registered charity is to provide specialist care, love and support for those living with progressive, life limiting illnesses from East and West Sussex. We will endeavour to meet the needs of each patient, their family and friends. We aim to encourage and enable all patients to live their lives to their full potential despite their illnesses.

We care for patients from Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath, Lewes, Uckfield and the surrounding villages. Last year we provided care for more than 400 patients and their families. All of our Hospice services are free of charge and we receive less than 17% of our funding from the Government. This means we have to raise more than £1.8 million every year through fundraising. That's £5,000 every single day.

If you are interested in working or volunteering at St Peter & St James please contact Human Resources on 01444 471598 or visit www.stpeter-stjames.org.uk.

Website: www.stpeter-stjames.org.uk

Email: fundraising@stpeter-stjames.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1056114

Images: For logos and photographs please contact Gill Cronin on 01444 471598 or email gill.cronin@stpeter-stjames.org.uk